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(71) 出願人 000006035

三菱レイヨン株式会社

東京都港区港南一丁目6番41号

(72) 発明者 奥野 大地

神奈川県川崎市多摩区登戸3816 三菱レイ
ヨン株式会社内

(74) 代理人 100059959

弁理士 中村 裕 (外10名)

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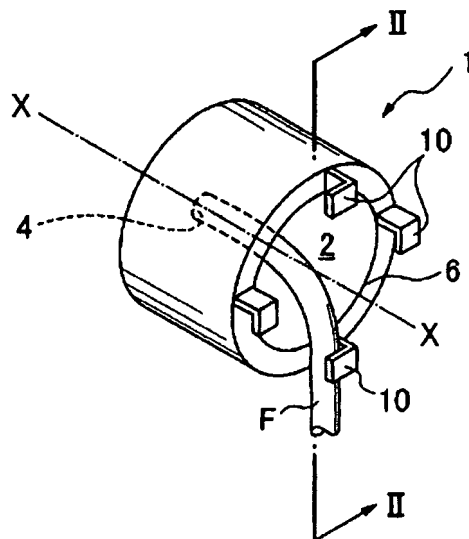
5G363 AA07 BA10 CB11

(54) 【発明の名称】 光ファイバ用曲げ規制部材

(57) 【要約】

【課題】 光ファイバが許容曲げ半径を超えて曲げて配置されることを防止する、光ファイバ用曲げ規制部材を提供することを目的とする。

【解決手段】 本発明の光ファイバ用曲げ規制部材1は、光ファイバFの曲げ半径を規制する曲げ規制部材であって、前記光ファイバFを、複数の方向で、該光ファイバの許容曲げ半径未満の曲率半径で曲がらないように曲げ規制する規制部8を備えている。



ファイバを保持させることにより、曲面の先端側で光ファイバを固定できる。

【0012】本発明の別の好ましい態様によれば、前記保持部が複数、より好ましくは、前記曲面の先端側に、ほぼ等角度間隔に設けられている。また、保持部が、フック部材であるのが好ましい。このフックは、略L字形状であるのが好ましい。

【0013】本発明の他の態様によれば、上記いずれかの光ファイバ用曲げ規制部材が、建物の壁の室外側に配置されており、前記曲げ規制部材に連通して壁に形成された貫通孔を通じて光ファイバが配設されている光ファイバ配設構造が提供される。

【0014】本発明の好ましい態様によれば、壁の室内側に配設されたコンセントに、前記貫通孔を通して配置された光ファイバの端部が連結されている。

【0015】

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の実施形態の光ファイバ用の曲げ規制部材を図面に沿って説明する。まず、図1および図2に沿って、第1実施形態の曲げ規制部材1の構成を説明する。図1は、本発明の第1の実施形態の光ファイバ用の曲げ規制部材1の斜視図であり、図2は、図1のII-II線に沿った断面図である。

【0016】図1及び図2に示されているように、曲げ規制部材1は、略円筒状の外形を有している。曲げ規制部材1の内部には、軸線方向に貫通する内部空間2が形成されている。この内部空間2は、一端（基端）側で、敷設される光ファイバFの外径にほぼ等しい内径を有する孔4によって規制部材1の外部と連通している。他端（先端）側では、規制部材1の外径とほぼ等しい径の開口部6を介して、外部と連通している。孔4と開口部6は、内方に向かって凸状に湾曲するホーン状（ラッパ状すなわち朝顔状）の曲面8によって、接続されている。この曲面8は、敷設される光ファイバFの許容曲げ半径以上の曲率半径を有する弧を、曲げ規制部材1の中心軸xを中心に回転させた形状である。従って、この曲面8の曲率半径は、敷設される光ファイバFの許容曲げ半径以上であり、この曲面8に沿って敷設された光ファイバFは、曲げ許容半径を下回って曲げられることはない。

【0017】回転させる弧は、曲率半径が最も小さい部分が許容曲げ半径以上であれば、どのような、曲線の一部であっても良い。たとえば、円、楕円、放物線、双曲線等の種々の曲線の一部が挙げられる。

【0018】尚、本明細書において、許容曲げ半径とは、JISC6823のマルチモード光ファイバ損失試験方法で測定された伝送損失増加値が0.5dB/km以下であるような半径を意味する。即ち、この試験方法では、送信側の光源と受信側の光パワーメータの間に測定する光ファイバを(X)m配置する。まず、光ファイバを、巻き径30cm程度でカセ巻きして、出射光量を測定し、これをaとする。尚、光源と光ファイバとの間

に励振器を配置し、光ファイバへの入射光は、クラッドモードを排除し、定常モードとしている。次に、光ファイバの(X/2)mの位置において、90度に曲げ半径Rで一回曲げた部分を作り、出射光量を測定しbとする。そして、 $a-b=-0.5\text{dB}$ となるときの曲げ半径を許容曲げ半径とする。

【0019】曲げ規制部材1は、先端部にフック10が設けられている。本実施形態では、フック10は、曲げ規制部材1の先端部の外周に沿って、90°間隔で、4つ設けられている。フック10は、曲げ規制部材1の先端面から垂直に敷設する光ファイバの外径とほぼ等しい長さだけ延び、その後、略90°折れ曲がって、曲げ規制部材1の先端面とほぼ平行に延びる略L字状の部材であり、曲げ規制部材1の先端面との間で、光ファイバを保持できるように構成されている。

【0020】本実施形態では、曲げ規制部材1およびフック10は、プラスチック等の合成樹脂によって一体成形されている。しかしながら、これらを、プラスチック等の合成樹脂で別々に成形して、結合させたものでよい。さらに、金属、セラミックス等の合成樹脂以外の材料でこれらを構成してもよい。

【0021】本実施形態の曲げ規制部材は、石英ファイバ、ポリマークラッドファイバ、フッ素樹脂プラスチック光ファイバ、PMMAプラスチック光ファイバ等のような光ファイバにも適用可能である。

【0022】使用にあたっては、例えば、図3に示されているように、曲げ規制部材1は、光ファイバFを敷設する建物の壁Wの室外側に、基端部側が室内側を向くように配置される。尚、図3の例では、曲げ規制部材1の孔が、曲げ規制部材1の軸線に対して傾斜して形成されている。

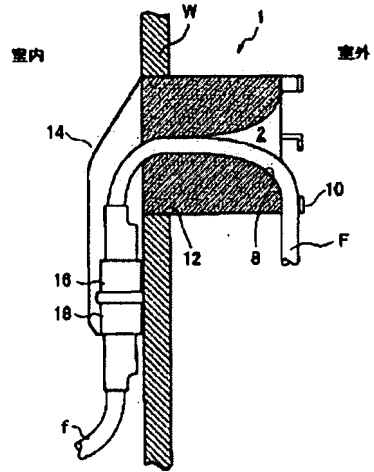
【0023】曲げ規制部材1は、壁Wに形成された貫通孔12を介して、壁の室内側に配置された光ファイバ用コンセント14と連結される。この結果、曲げ規制部材1の内部空間2が、貫通孔12を介して、コンセント14の内部と連通する。壁Wの外部空間を延びてきた光ファイバFは、貫通孔12内に延びる曲げ規制部材1内を通り、先端部が壁Wの室内側に配置された光ファイバ用コンセント14内に至り、そこで室内側の光ファイバFに連結される。壁の外側の光ファイバFと室内側の光ファイバFとの先端には、それぞれ、接続用アダプタ16、18が取付けられており、光ファイバFと光ファイバFとは、この接続用アダプタ16、18を連結することにより、光学的に接続されるように構成されている。

【0024】壁Wの室外側の空間を通過してきた光ファイバFは、フック10と曲げ規制部材1の先端面との間で保持され、更に、曲面8に沿って略90°曲げられ、更に、孔4を通過して、壁Wの室内側の光ファイバ用コンセントまで延びる。

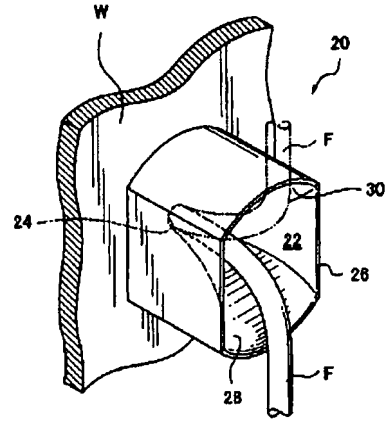
【0025】このような曲げ規制部材1では、光ファイ

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【図3】



【図4】



Translation of Japanese Unexamined Patent Application

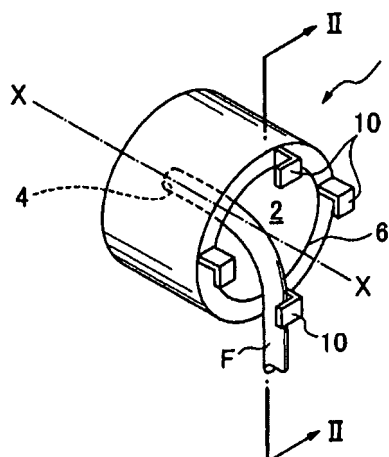
BENDING RESTRICTION MEMBER FOR OPTICAL FIBRE

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 Inventor Daichi OKUNO
 Applicant Mitsubishi Rayon Co., Ltd.
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Abstract

TASK: To provide a bending restriction member for optical fibre which prevents an optical fibre being disposed with bending in excess of the permissible bending radius. [1]*

SOLUTION: The optical fibre bending restriction member 1 of the present invention restricts the bending radius of optical fibre *F* and comprises restriction part 8 [2] for restricting the bending of optical fibre *F* in a plurality of directions in such manner that it will not bend with a radius of curvature which is smaller than the permissible bending radius of that optical fibre.



Claims

1. A bending restriction member for optical fibre for restricting the bending radius of an optical fibre, said bending restriction member characterised in that:

it comprises a restriction part for restricting the bending of said optical fibre in a plurality of directions in such manner that it will not bend with a radius of curvature which is smaller than the permissible bending radius of that optical fibre.
2. The bending restriction member for optical fibre according to Claim 1, wherein said restriction part comprises a curved surface having a radius of curvature equal to or greater than said permissible bending radius.

* Numbers in square brackets refer to Translator's Notes appended to the translation.

3. The bending restriction member for optical fibre according to Claim 2, wherein said curved surface is trumpet-shaped, this shape being obtained by rotating an arc with a radius of curvature equal to or greater than said permissible bending radius.
- 5 4. The bending restriction member for optical fibre according to Claim 2, wherein said curved surface comprises two curved surface parts separated by 180° and extending in opposite directions.
- 10 5. The bending restriction member for optical fibre according to any one of Claims 2 to 4 inclusive, wherein a hole of approximately equal diameter to the outer diameter of said optical fibre is provided at the base end of said curved surface.
- 15 6. The bending restriction member for optical fibre according to any one of Claims 2 to 5 inclusive, wherein a retaining part for retaining said optical fibre is provided at the front end of said curved surface.
7. The bending restriction member for optical fibre according to Claim 6, wherein a plurality of said retaining parts is provided.
- 20 8. The bending restriction member for optical fibre according to Claim 3, wherein a plurality of retaining parts for retaining said optical fibre is provided at the front end of said curved surface at approximately equiangular intervals.
- 25 9. The bending restriction member for optical fibre according to any one of Claims 6 to 8 inclusive, wherein said retaining part is a hook.
10. An optical fibre provision structure characterised in that:
the bending restriction part for optical fibre according to any one of Claims 1 to 9 inclusive is arranged on the outside of a wall of a building, and an optical fibre is
30 provided through a through-hole formed in the wall, said through-hole communicating with said bending restriction member. [3]
11. The optical fibre provision structure according to Claim 10, wherein the end of the optical fibre that has been arranged through said through-hole is connected to a wall
35 socket provided on the inside of the wall.

Detailed Description of the Invention

Technical field of the invention

- (1) The present invention relates to a bending restriction member for optical fibre, and more particularly to a bending restriction member for preventing an optical fibre
5 being laid with bending greater than a permissible value.*

Prior art

- (2) When laying optical fibre, it is sometimes necessary for the fibre to be arranged with a bend. For example, when laying optical fibre inside a building, fibre that has been arranged in the space behind a wall is passed through a socket mounted on the
10 wall and led out into a room. When this is done, the optical fibre, which in the space behind the wall extends roughly parallel to the wall, is bent by approximately 90° behind the wall socket so that it can head into the room.

Problem that the invention will solve

- (3) When an optical fibre is arranged with a bend in this manner it sometimes ends up
15 bending in excess of the permissible bending radius. In particular, when it bends in the space behind a wall in the above-described manner, the difficulty of working with the fibre itself contributes to the likelihood that the fibre will end up being bent in excess of the permissible bending radius. Bending of an optical fibre in excess of the permissible bending radius is to be avoided as it results in a deterioration of the
20 transmission characteristics.

- (4) The present invention has been devised in the light of this situation, and it is an object of the invention to provide a bending restriction member for optical fibre which prevents an optical fibre being disposed with bending in excess of the permissible bending radius.

Means for solving problem

- (5) The present invention is a bending restriction member for restricting the bending radius of an optical fibre. The invention provides a bending restriction member for optical fibre comprising a restriction part for restricting the bending of the optical fibre in a plurality of directions in such manner that it will not bend with a radius of
30 curvature which is smaller than the permissible bending radius of that optical fibre.

- (6) Given this constitution of the invention, when an optical fibre is laid, it will not bend with a radius of curvature which is smaller than the permissible bending radius. Moreover, because the bending restriction operates in a plurality of directions, the invention has great versatility.

* Numbers in round brackets at the beginning of paragraphs correspond to the paragraph numbering in the Japanese patent document.

(7) According to a preferred mode of the present invention, the above-mentioned restriction part comprises a curved surface having a radius of curvature equal to or greater than the above-mentioned permissible bending radius.

5 (8) According to another preferred mode of the present invention, the above-mentioned curved surface is trumpet-shaped, this shape being obtained by rotating an arc with a radius of curvature equal to or greater than the above-mentioned permissible bending radius. Giving this constitution, an optical fibre can be bent through 90° with a radius of curvature which is equal to or greater than its permissible bending radius, irrespective of the direction from which the fibre has
10 arrived.

(9) According to another preferred mode of the present invention, the above-mentioned curved surface comprises two curved surface parts separated by 180° and extending in opposite directions.

15 (10) According to another preferred mode of the present invention, a hole of approximately equal diameter to the outer diameter of the above-mentioned optical fibre is provided at the base end of the above-mentioned curved surface. Given this constitution, an optical fibre can be fixed at the base end of the curved surface by being passed into the opening. [4]

20 (11) According to another preferred mode of the present invention, a retaining part for retaining the above-mentioned optical fibre is provided at the front end of the above-mentioned curved surface. Given this constitution, an optical fibre can be fixed at the front end of the curved surface by being retained by the retaining part.

25 (12) According to another preferred mode of the present invention, a plurality of the above-mentioned retaining parts is provided, and more preferably, these are provided at approximately equiangular intervals at the front end of the above-mentioned curved surface. It is also preferable for the retaining part to be a hook. Preferably, this hook is approximately L-shaped.

30 (13) According to another mode of the present invention, there is provided an optical fibre provision structure wherein any of the above-described bending restriction parts for optical fibre is arranged on the outside of a wall of a building, and an optical fibre is provided through a through-hole formed in the wall, the above-mentioned through-hole communicating with the above-mentioned bending restriction member. [5]

35 (14) According to a preferred mode of the present invention, the end of the optical fibre that has been arranged through the above-mentioned through-hole is connected to a wall socket provided on the inside of the wall.

Modes of practising the invention

(15) A bending restriction member for optical fibre according to modes of practising the present invention will now be described in conformity with the drawings. Firstly, the constitution of bending restriction member 1 of a first mode of practising the invention will be described with reference to FIG. 1 and FIG. 2, of which FIG. 1 is a perspective view of optical fibre bending restriction member 1 according to this first mode of practising the invention, and FIG. 2 is a sectional view defined by line II-II in FIG. 1.

(16) As shown in FIG. 1 and FIG. 2, bending restriction member 1 has an approximately round cylindrical external form. Internal space 2 is formed inside bending restriction member 1 and passes through it in an axial direction. At one end (the base end), this internal space 2 communicates with the space beyond restriction member 1 by means of hole 4 having an inner diameter approximately equal to the outer diameter of optical fibre *F* to be laid. At the other end (the front end), it communicates with the space beyond restriction member 1 via opening 6 having a diameter approximately equal to the outer diameter of restriction member 1. Hole 4 and opening 6 are connected by inwardly and convexly curving horn-shaped (i.e., trumpet- or funnel-shaped) curved surface 8. This curved surface 8 has a shape obtained by rotating an arc around centre axis X of bending restriction member 1, this arc having a radius of curvature equal to or greater than the permissible bending radius of optical fibre *F* that is to be laid. Consequently, the radius of curvature of this curved surface 8 is equal to or greater than the permissible bending radius of optical fibre *F* to be laid, with the result that an optical fibre *F* that has been laid along this curved surface 8 will not be bent at less than the permissible bending radius.

(17) A portion of any curve can be used as the arc that is rotated, provided that the portion of the arc having the smallest radius of curvature is equal to or greater than the permissible bending radius. For example, a portion of a variety of curves such as a circle, an ellipse, a parabola or a hyperbola can be used.

(18) In the present specification, "permissible bending radius" signifies for example the radius at which the increase in transmission loss as measured by the measuring method for attenuation of multimode optical fibres described in JIS C6823 is equal to or less than 0.5 dB/km. In this method, X metres of an optical fibre to be measured is set up between a light source at the transmitting end and an optical power meter at the receiving end. Firstly, the quantity of output light obtained is measured after the optical fibre has been cassette-wound with a winding diameter of 30 centimetres. This quantity is designated *a*. Note that a driver is arranged between the light source and the optical fibre, and that cladding modes are removed from the light launched into the fibre to give a steady-state mode. Next, a portion of the optical fibre at a position

X/2 metres along the length of the fibre is formed into a single 90° bend with a bending radius R, and the quantity of output light measured. This quantity is designated **b**. The permissible bending radius is defined as the bending radius at which $a-b = -0.5$ dB.

5 (19) Hook 10 is provided at the front end of bending restriction member 1. In the present mode of practising the invention, four hooks 10 are provided at intervals of 90° around the periphery of the front end of bending restriction member 1. Hook 10 is an approximately L-shaped member which extends perpendicularly from the front end face of bending restriction member 1 to a length that is approximately equal to
10 the outer diameter of the optical fibre to be laid, and then bends by approximately 90° and extends roughly parallel to the front end face of bending restriction member 1. In other words, it is adapted to be capable of retaining an optical fibre between itself and the front end face of bending restriction member 1.

(20) In the present mode of practising the invention, bending restriction member 1
15 and hook 10 are integrally moulded from plastic or other synthetic resin. However, they may be separately moulded from plastic or other synthetic resin and then joined. Alternatively, they can be constructed from a material other than a synthetic resin, such as metal or ceramic.

(21) The bending restriction member of the present mode of embodying the invention
20 is applicable to optical fibres such as silica fibre, polymer-clad fibre, fluorine resin plastic optical fibre and PMMA plastic optical fibre.

(22) An example of the use of bending restriction member 1 will now be described. As depicted in FIG. 3, bending restriction member 1 is for example arranged on the outside of wall **W** of a building to which optical fibre **F** is to be laid, in such manner
25 that its base end faces the inside of a room. Note that in the example illustrated in FIG. 3, the hole of bending restriction member 1 [6] is formed obliquely to the axis of bending restriction member 1.

(23) Bending restriction member 1 is joined, via through-hole 12 formed in wall **W**, to optical fibre wall socket 14 disposed on the inside of the wall. As a result, internal
30 space 2 of bending restriction member 1 communicates, via through-hole 12, with the inside of wall socket 14. Optical fibre **F** that reaches bending restriction member 1 after extending through the space outside wall **W** passes through bending restriction member 1 which extends into through-hole 12, and reaches the inside of optical fibre wall socket 14, the front end of which has been disposed on the inside of wall **W**.
35 There it is joined to optical fibre **f** which is inside the room. Connection adapters 16 and 18 are respectively fitted to the end of optical fibre **F** (which extends outside the wall) and the end of optical fibre **f** laid inside the room, and optical fibres **F** and **f** are optically connected by joining these connection adapters 16 and 18.

(24) Optical fibre **F** that has passed through the space outside wall **W** is held between hook 10 and the front end face of bending restriction member 1; is bent through approximately 90° over curved surface 8; passes through hole 4; and extends into the optical fibre wall socket on the inside of wall **W**.

5 (25) With bending restriction member 1 of this sort, optical fibre **F** is disposed along a curved surface with a radius of curvature equal to or greater than the permissible bending radius of the fibre, and therefore, at locations where it is disposed in this bent manner, the optical fibre is not bent with a radius of curvature smaller than the permissible bending radius. Furthermore, optical fibre **F** is retained by hole 4 and
 10 hook 10, and hence its laid position is maintained. It may be noted that the dimensions of wall socket 14 [7] are established so that optical fibre **F** extending into the wall socket from bending restriction member 1 curves in a path that is greater than its bending radius. [8]

(26) Next, the constitution of bending restriction member 20 according to a second
 15 mode of practising the present invention will be described with reference to FIG. 4. As shown in FIG. 4, bending restriction member 20 has an approximately cuboid external form. Space 22 penetrating through the interior is formed inside bending restriction member 20. At one end (the base end), this space 22 communicates with the space beyond restriction member 20 by means of hole 24 having an inner diameter
 20 approximately equal to the outer diameter of optical fibre **F** to be laid. At the other end (the front end), it communicates with the space beyond restriction member 20 via opening 26 which is approximately equal to the external form of restriction member 20.

(27) Hole 24 [9] and opening 26 are connected by two curved surfaces 28 and 30
 25 which extend in opposite directions separated by 180° (in FIG. 4, they extend respectively upwards and downwards), these curved surfaces curving inwardly and convexly. Curved surfaces 28 and 30 have a radius of curvature equal to or greater than the permissible bending radius of optical fibre **F** to be laid. Consequently, an optical fibre **F** that has been laid along these curved surfaces 28 and 30 will not be
 30 bent at less than the permissible bending radius.

(28) The basic method of using bending restriction member 20 is the same as in the case of bending restriction member 1 of the first mode of practising the invention. Bending restriction member 20 differs from bending restriction member 1 in that the laying direction of optical fibre **F** is restricted to two directions separated by 180° —
 35 namely, a first direction indicated by the solid lines in FIG. 4, and a second direction indicated by the dash-and-two-dot lines.

(29) With bending restriction member 20 of this sort, optical fibre **F** is disposed along curved surface 28 or 30 having a radius of curvature equal to or greater than the

permissible bending radius of the fibre, and therefore with this bending restriction member as well, at locations where the optical fibre is disposed in this bent manner, it is not bent with a radius of curvature smaller than its permissible bending radius.

(30) The present invention is not restricted to the embodiments described above, and various alterations and modifications within the scope of the claims are feasible.

(31) Hooks of the sort provided by bending restriction member 1 of the first mode of practising the invention can also be provided on bending restriction member 20 of the above-described second mode of practising the invention.

(32) Although in the bending restriction members of the above-described embodiments a single optical fibre was disposed in bent manner, the present invention can also be adapted for disposing a plurality of optical fibres in bent manner. When adapted in this manner, the hole in the base end is formed with consideration of the outer diameter of the optical fibre bundle to be disposed.

(33) Moreover, although in the above-described embodiments the bending restriction was imposed by means of a curved surface, it is also feasible to impose the bending restriction by means of, for example, a step-form portion instead of a curved surface.

Effects of the invention

(34) As has been described above, the present invention provides a bending restriction member for optical fibre which prevents an optical fibre being disposed with bending in excess of the permissible bending radius.

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an optical fibre bending restriction member according to a first mode of practising the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a sectional view defined by line II-II in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a schematic sectional view showing the situation where a bending restriction member according to the first mode of practising the invention has been fitted to a wall.

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of an optical fibre bending restriction member according to a second mode of practising the present invention.

Explanation of referencing numerals

- 1bending restriction member
- 2internal space
- 4hole
- 6opening
- 8curved surface

FIG. 1

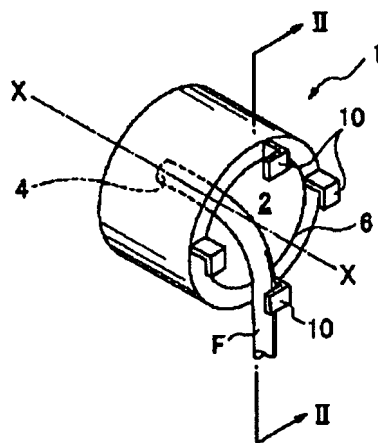


FIG. 2

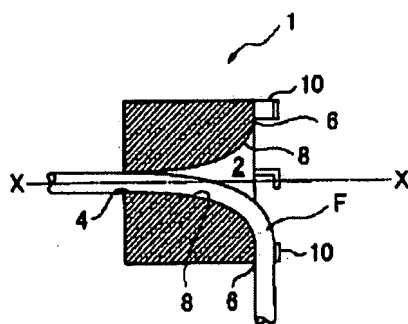


FIG. 3

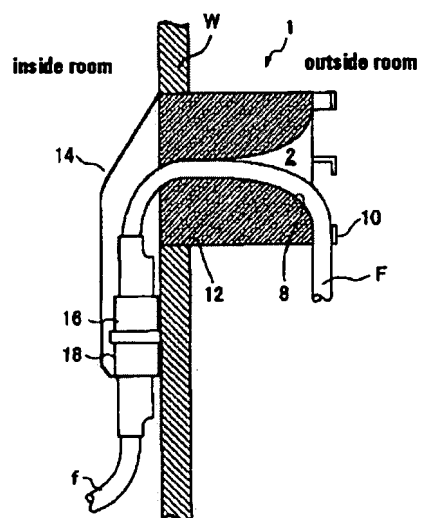
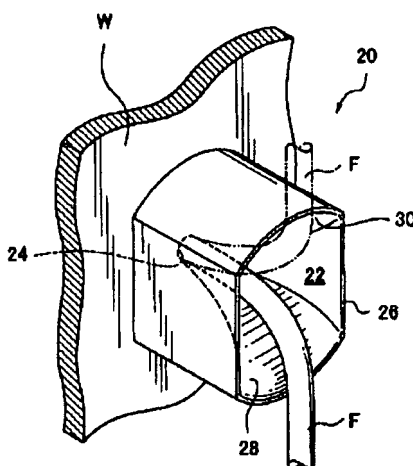


FIG. 4



TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

1. Sic. This is a possibly misleading expression. By "bending in excess of the permissible bending radius", the writer is presumably intending to signify "bending **more tightly than** the permissible bending radius".
2. The "restriction part" referenced 8 can be seen in FIG. 2. Essentially, the "restriction part" is a curved surface.
3. Sic. This seems an awkward way of describing what I take to be essentially the situation depicted in FIG. 3: namely, the bending restriction member of the invention is fitted into a through-hole in a wall, and therefore passing an optical fibre through the bending restriction member in effect passes the fibre through the through-hole in the wall.
4. Sic. This statement about fixing the fibre does not seem very precise. Is the implication that the hole at the base end of the curved surface can be used to fix the fibre in place?
5. See Note 3 above.
6. The writer is presumably referring to hole 4 (see FIG. 1 and FIG. 2) in the base end of the bending restriction member.
7. The Japanese text has "wall socket 12", a minor error which I have corrected in the translation.
8. Sic. This statement is not very precise. The writer presumably means that the wall socket dimensions are designed so that when connected, optical fibre *F* extending from the bending restriction member does not bend with a radius of curvature smaller than its permissible bending radius.
9. The Japanese text reads "hole 22". However, 22 references the internal space and I have therefore made the appropriate correction.

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 PD - 2003-09-05
 PR - JP20020049693 20020226
 OPD- 2002-02-26
 TI - BENDING RESTRICTION MEMBER FOR OPTICAL FIBER
 IN - OKUNO DAICHI
 PA - MITSUBISHI RAYON CO
 IC - G02B6/00 ; H02G3/22

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TI - Bending control structure for optical fiber, adjusts bending control of optical fiber along given direction, so that fiber is not bent with radius which is under acceptance level
 PR - JP20020049693 20020226
 PN - JP2003248125 A 20030905 DW200362 G02B6/00 005pp
 PA - (MITR) MITSUBISHI RAYON CO LTD
 IC - G02B6/00 ;H02G3/22
 AB - JP2003248125 NOVELTY - The bending control of optical fiber along given direction is performed with a control unit, so that the fiber is not bent with radius which is under acceptance level. The control unit has a curved surface with a radius of curvature exceeding the acceptance bend level.
 - USE - Bending control structure for optical fiber.
 - ADVANTAGE - Prevents bending of fiber with radius exceeding acceptance level, reliably.
 - DESCRIPTION OF DRAWING(S) - The figure shows a perspective view of control of the fiber bending control structure.
 - bending control structure 1
 - internal space 2
 - hole 4
 - opening 6
 - curved surface 8
 - (Dwg.1/4)
 OPD- 2002-02-26
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PN - JP2003248125 A 20030905
 PD - 2003-09-05
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 IN - OKUNO DAICHI
 PA - MITSUBISHI RAYON CO LTD
 TI - BENDING RESTRICTION MEMBER FOR OPTICAL FIBER
 AB - PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a bending restriction member for an optical fiber for preventing the optical fiber from being bent exceeding an allowable bend diameter and being arranged.
 - SOLUTION: A bending restriction member1 for an optical fiber regulates the bend radius of an optical fiber F and has a restrictor 8 for restricting a bend so that the optical fiber F is not bent with a radius of curvature that is less than an allowable bend radius in the optical fiber in a plurality of directions.
 I - G02B6/00 ;H02G3/22